Special package for Textile Industry

2304. SHRIMATI N.R DURGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the special package announced for the textile industry;

(b) whether any textile asset recast fund is being ,created; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OFTEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) In the Budget proposals 2003-04, excise duty has been reduced on almost all the textile items such as non-cotton spun yarns, woven and knit fabrics, readymade garments, made-ups, etc. A 'Powerloom Package for Modernisation' has also been announced. This aims at enlarging the scope of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) to cover powerlooms, to create a better working environment and obtain higher productivity besides providing insurance cover to the powerloom workers as a welfare measures, etc.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. However, the proposal has not yet been finalised.

Export of readymade garments to Canada

2305. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of readymade garments to Canada is on the decrease;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken to increase the exports to Canada?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OFTEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) As per available DGCI&S data, the readymade garment exports to Canada during the period April-November, 2002 amounted to US$ 160.01 million as compared to export of US$ 136.38 million during the corresponding period of 2001, recording a growth of 17.3%.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(c) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to boost textile exports to all countries, including Canada. Some of the important initiatives are:

(i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores.

(ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iii) Weaving processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures. This further encourages modernisation.

(iv) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought from 15% to 5%.

(v) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(vi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

(vii) The Government has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.

(viii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS)' has been launched.